



Offshore Development Working Group

Work Plan

Issue: Offshore Development

Description:

Sanctuary waters are becoming increasingly challenged by a variety of development efforts, including aquaculture and renewable energy. The Sanctuary needs to be positioned to respond to these challenges in a responsible, knowledgeable and pono way.

Offshore development activities include structures from the coastline, through the Sanctuary, to the sanctuary boundary. Potentially offshore development immediately outside of the sanctuary boundary may be an issue to be considered due to noise, vibration, or other impacts which may be felt within the sanctuary.

Examples of offshore development noted in public comments included offshore aquaculture, wind and wave energy structures, and underwater cables. Comments were received that stated concern over potential impacts to cultural and biological resources and the siting of development activities. Other comments suggested that such development activities have not been shown to have adverse impacts on marine resources. Community members suggested using the best available science and placed-based knowledge when considering development activities within the sanctuary.

Method of Communication within the Working Group:

Meetings will be held via teleconference and web-conferencing. Key milestone dates are the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meetings. Currently the spring meeting is scheduled for April 4-5, 2011. It is anticipated that there will be a late summer/early fall 2011 council meeting. It is also anticipated that tele- or web-conference meeting will be held once per month, and more often if necessary.

An Aquaculture Work Shop is currently being planned and jointly sponsored by the University of Hawaii, Aquaculture Program and the Sanctuary. The results of the Work Shop will be integrated into the final recommendations of the ODWG.

Information Needs:

- Existing relevant Sanctuary policies, rules and enabling legislation
- State of Hawaii nearshore zoning definitions and conservation area maps
- DLNR Policy statement regarding offshore development
- Existing telecom underwater cable locations

Proposed Timeline:

March – September 2011

Anticipated Outcomes and Products:

April 4, 2011	A finalized list of working group members and a Work Plan
June 2011	Results of the Aquaculture Work Shop
July 2011	Initial Draft Recommendations
Next SAC Meeting	Recommendations to Full Council